

44/9/16 AC. 44642

City of Wakefield
Education Authority

Report of the
School Medical Officer
for the Year 1953



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Public Health Department,
Town Hall Chambers,
King Street,
Wakefield.
September, 1954.

To the Local Education Authority,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the School Health Service for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

Included at page 17, the Committee will find an article by Dr. Price, one of the School Medical Officers, on "Fluorine and Dental Decay".

Dr. Price has studied this subject in conjunction with Mr. Cubitt, the Principal Dental Officer, and I have pleasure in drawing your attention to the observations he makes.

Yours faithfully,

C. G. K. THOMPSON,
School Medical Officer.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Alderman B. Johnson, J.P.

Deputy Chairman:

Councillor E. E. Borkwood, J.P.

The Mayor:

Councillor F. West

Alderman E. Slater, J.P.

Councillor E. H. Kitchen

Councillor Mrs. E. H. Crowe, J.P.

„ L. Moore

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„ M. Fitzpatrick

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„ J. A. Garritty

„ S. Tiffany

„ D. Hutchings

„ H. Watson

Co-opted Members.

Mrs. K. E. Kingswell, J.P., M.A.

Mrs. A. Strickland

The Very Rev. N. T. Hopkins, M.A.

Mr. T. Smith

The Very Rev. Mgr. H. Thompson

Mr. S. H. Waters, M.A.

Director of Education:

C. L. Berry, M.A.

Principal School Medical Officer:

C. G. K. Thompson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

I.—STAFF.

CYRIL GEORGE KAY THOMPSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Principal School Medical Officer.

PATRICK LAWRENCE KARNEY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Deputy Principal School Medical Officer. (*Resigned July, 1953*)

GILBERT TATTERSALL, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.
School Medical Officer.

JOHN WILLIAM PRICE, M.B., Ch.B.
School Medical Officer. (*appointed September, 1953*)

GEORGE S. CUBITT, L.D.S., R.C.S.
Principal School Dental Officer.

*SYDNEY K. SLEDGE, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.
Consultant Ophthalmologist.

*THOMAS B. HUTTON, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.L.O.
Consultant Otologist.

*MARION AITKEN PEARSON, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon.

*DAVID FENTON-RUSSELL, M.D., D.P.M., D.P.H.
Consultant Psychiatrist.

*BERNARD R. TOWNEND, F.D.S., R.C.S.
Consultant Orthodontist.

*MARJORIE M. BLAKE, M.A., L.C.S.T.
Speech Therapist. (*Resigned March, 1953*)

Hannah Bell

Sarah Roxby Pearson

*Ann Ward (*Resigned June, 1953*)

*Marjorie Martin (*Resigned June, 1953*)

Joan Gaffney

Margaret Patricia Proctor

Mrs. Amy Marshall (*Appointed July, 1953*)

Miss Elsie Davies (*Appointed July, 1953*)

} School
Nurses

Margaret Downing, Nurse-in-Charge, Central School Clinic.

Nora McManus, Physiotherapist.

Barbara Ward, Dental Attendant.

Herbert W. Tate, Clerk.

Doreen Blanshard, Assistant to Clerk.

*Part-time.

2.—CO-ORDINATION.

The School Health Service is completely co-ordinated with the Public Health Service of the City. The Medical Officer of Health is also the Principal School Medical Officer and the other medical staff combine appointments in the Public Health and the School Health Services.

Each of the Health Visitors, of which there are normally six is also a School Nurse. In addition, the Health Visitors are concerned with the home visiting in the Tuberculosis Service, the Child Welfare Services and in connection with the home circumstances and supervision of Mental Defectives. Since the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, they also carry out considerable home visiting in relation to the care and after-care of persons suffering from illness or who require supervision and assistance for other reasons. This statement of the most important duties of the School Nurses is given to make clear the unique position occupied by them in the City. They are "all-purpose" visitors, each serving a definite area and by this arrangement they are enabled to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of the family circumstances of the homes from which the school population is drawn. The Health Visitor-School Nurse is the general practitioner nurse in Social Medicine and thus occupies a key position in the service.

2a.—SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION.

There are 32 Primary Schools in Wakefield of which 2 contain senior pupils, 10 have junior pupils only, 5 have junior and infant pupils combined, and 15 have infant pupils only. There are 5 Modern Secondary Schools and one Municipal Grammar School, whilst there are also secondary pupils in the Commercial, Technical and Art Departments of the Technical College.

Number on Rolls—Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools—9132.

3.—SCHOOL SANITATION.

Hot Water was installed in Lawefield Lane Infants' School and four old wash basins replaced with nine new basins.

Painting was carried out at the following Schools:—

Internal.

Alverthorpe C.E. Junior
Eastmoor C. Infants'
Flanshaw C. Infants'
Snapethorpe C. Infants'
Snapethorpe C. Junior

Cathedral Boys' Secondary
Thornes House Grammar School
(*part*)
Holmfield House Grammar (*part*)
Technical and Art College (*part*)

St. Austin's R.C. Upper	Hornsea Seaside (<i>part</i>)
St. James' C.E. Junior	Snapethorpe Secondary (<i>Dinning Hall and Servery</i>)
St. Mary's C.E. Jun' & Inf.	Almshouse Lane (<i>Kitchen</i>)
St. John's C.E. Boys'	Youth House (<i>part</i>)
Newstead Road Special Subjects	

External.

Sandal C. Junior	Newstead Road Special Subjects
Sandal C. Infants'	Cathedral Boys' H.O.R.S.A. Hut
Snapethorpe C. Junior	1A Bell Street
Snapethorpe Secondary	5 Margaret Street

The following school playgrounds were paved:— Christ Church C.E. Infants' and St. James' Junior

4.—MEDICAL INSPECTION FINDINGS.

A. Periodic Medical Inspection.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXAMINED AT PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Group	Total	Boys	Girls
ENTRANTS	662	315	347
INTERMEDIATES	504	249	255
LEAVERS	798	401	397
Totals ..	1964	965	999

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT.

HEIGHT.

Age Group Years	BOYS				GIRLS			
	Average Height				Average Height			
	1953 Ft. Ins.	1952 Ft. Ins.	1953 Ft. Ins.	1952 Ft. Ins.	1953 Ft. Ins.	1952 Ft. Ins.	1953 Ft. Ins.	1952 Ft. Ins.
5—6	3 6	3 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 6	3 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 6	3 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 6
10—11	4 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 6	4 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
14—15	5 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 1	5 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 0	5 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 0	5 0	5 0

WEIGHT

Age Group Years	BOYS		GIRLS	
	Average Weight		Average Weight	
	1953 Lbs. Ozs.	1952 Lbs. Ozs.	1953 Lbs. Ozs.	1952 Lbs. Ozs.
5—6	42 12	43 10	42 2	42 11
10—11	69 6	70 1	70 4	70 2
14—15	99 4	100 6	102 12	103 4

CONDITION OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR.

CLOTHING

Group	Total unsatisfactory Clothing		Poor Clothing		Bad Clothing	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Entrants ..	7	1.05	7	1.05	—	—
Intermediates	10	1.9	9	1.7	1	0.19
Leavers ..	19	2.3	18	2.2	1	0.12
Totals ..	36	1.8	34	1.7	2	0.10

FOOTWEAR

Group	Total unsatisfactory Footwear		Poor Footwear		Bad Footwear	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Entrants ..	10	1.5	9	1.3	1	0.15
Intermediates	18	3.5	16	3.1	2	0.39
Leavers ..	24	3.0	21	2.6	3	0.37
Totals ..	52	2.6	46	12.3	6	0.30

GENERAL CONDITION.

Classifi- cation	Entrants		Intermediates		Leavers	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Good ..	90	13.6	174	34.5	142	17.8
Fair ..	540	81.6	314	62.3	638	79.9
Poor ..	32	4.8	16	3.2	18	2.3

CLEANLINESS.**1. Cleanliness of the Head.**

Of the 1,964 children examined at periodic medical inspections 39 (2.03 per cent.) were found to have verminous heads, and of these 9 were excluded from school.

2. Cleanliness of the Body.

16 children were noted at periodic medical inspections with dirty bodies (0.86).

**RESULTS OF SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION BY SCHOOL
NURSES OF CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS AS REGARDS
CLEANLINESS, ETC.**

Total number examined	24,025
Number found to be infested with vermin	553 (2.3 per cent.)
Number excluded from school	241 (1.0 per cent.)
Number with minor infestations ..	322 (1.3 per cent.)
Average number of days absent from school	4
Number of Forms 1 issued	178
Number of Forms 2 issued	58
Number of Forms 3 issued (Orders to Cleanse)	23
Number of Forms 4 issued	59
Number cleansed at Central School Clinic	71

Eleven prosecutions took place during 1953, all the parents being fined, the fines varying from 10/- to £1.

CONDITION OF THE TEETH.

			Total	Percentage
Number with Good Teeth	..	..	1030	55.6
Number with Poor Teeth	..	..	692	35.2
Number with Bad Teeth	..	..	242	12.3
Number with Dirty Teeth	..	..	558	28.9

CONDITION OF THE THROAT AND NOSE.

168 children had defects of the throat and nose. 109 had enlarged tonsils, 49 had enlarged tonsils and adenoids, 4 adenoids, and 6 had other throat and nose defects. The total percentage was 8.5 compared with 9.4 in 1952. The percentage with marked defect and definitely in need of surgical treatment was 1.3 compared with 1.1 in 1952.

ENLARGED GLANDS.

58 children, 2.9 per cent. had enlarged cervical glands.

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.

12 children (0.61 per cent.) had external eye diseases, 8 conjunctivitis and 4 blepharitis. 20 children were noted with strabismus or squint.

VISION.

Total with Defective Vision	..	287 (131 boys and 156 girls)
		21.1 per cent.
Number with Poor Vision	..	236 (112 boys and 124 girls)
		17.3 per cent.
Number with Bad Vision	..	51 (23 boys and 28 girls)
		3.9 per cent.

136 children were wearing spectacles and in 104 instances the spectacles were satisfactory and in 32 instances had become unsatisfactory.

EAR DISEASES AND HEARING.

32 children (1.6 per cent.) had defects or diseases of the ear, 22 being cases of Otorrhoea or running ears, and 3 cases of obstruction of external meatus by wax.

10 children were noted with defective hearing of which 2 cases were referred for treatment.

SPEECH.

23 children (1.1 per cent.) had speech defects, 1 being a stammerer, and 21 with defective articulation.

LUNGS.

36 children (1.8 per cent.) were affected with lung disease. 17 children (0.86 per cent.) were affected with bronchitis. No case of definite or suspected tuberculosis was noted.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

No case was noted.

EDUCATIONALLY SUBNORMAL CHILDREN.

5 educationally subnormal children were noted, 2 intermediates and 3 leavers.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

No case of Epilepsy was noted.

3 children were noted with other affections of the nervous system.

HEART AND CIRCULATION.

3 children (0.15 per cent.) were affected with abnormal hearts, all functional in character.

21 children were reported as anaemic, (1.06 per cent.) as compared with 0.93 per cent. in 1952.

ORTHOPAEDIC.

34 children were noted with postural defects and 36 had flat feet. 54 children had other slight defects.

CONTAGIOUS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 4 children found with Impetigo.

The other skin diseases included Dermatitis 6 cases, Seborrhoea 3 cases, Excema 2 cases, Scabies 2 cases, Ichthyosis 1 case and Psoriasis 1 case.

There was one case of Mumps.

OTHER DEFECTS OR DISEASES.

These included Enuresis 5 cases, Worms 3 cases, Boils 3 cases Undescended Testicles 2 cases, Obesity 2 cases, Hernia 2 cases, Rheumatism 1 case and Congenital absence of left arm 1 case.

General Summary.

Number of children without defect ..	497 (25.3 per cent.)
Number of children with one defect	793 (40.3 per cent.)
Number of children with two defects..	561 (28.5 per cent.)
Number of children with three defects	104 (5.3 per cent.)
Number of children with more than three defects	9 (0.45 per cent.)
Number of children referred for treat- ment (including cleanliness but not dental defects)	271 (13.8 per cent.)
Number of children referred for ob- servation	1196 (60.8 per cent.)

B. SUPPLEMENTARY INSPECTION.

This includes children examined at the Inspection Clinics and in the schools, apart from Periodic Inspections. During 1953, the number of inspections was 3,912 and the re-inspections amounted to 1,421, a total of 5,333 examinations compared with 5,709 in 1952.

5.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 263 cases of Measles, 63 cases of Whooping Cough, 88 cases of Chickenpox, 94 cases of Mumps, and 101 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported as occurring amongst school children. 1 case of Diphtheria amongst school children was notified during the year. There were also 8 cases of Scabies. 1 case of Ringworm (Scalp) was reported during the year. No school was closed on account of any infectious disease.

Scarlet Fever.

Excluding cases where the diagnosis was revised, the number notified during 1953 was 142, and of these cases 101 (71.1 per cent.) were school children.

Scarlet Fever cases amongst school children were more prevalent in 1953, there having been 101 cases compared with 44 in 1952.

There was no death from Scarlet Fever during 1953.

The attack rate was 11.2 per 1,000 of the school population.

Diphtheria.

1 case was notified during 1953, a school child who died.

6.—FOLLOWING-UP.

The following-up of the children found to be defective or in need of attention either at Periodic or Supplementary Inspection is carried out by the School Nurses. The results of following-up are given under Section 7 of this Report.

The following is a statistical summary of the work done by the School Nurses during 1953 in connection with the School Health Service:—

Number of visits to schools	508
Number of examinations in schools <i>re</i> Cleanliness, Condition of Clothing, Footwear and Treatment..	25,132
Number of Home Visits <i>re</i> Verminous and Neglected Children	253
Number of Home Visits <i>re</i> Contagious Diseases ..	668
Number of Home Visits for other purposes	991

7.—MEDICAL TREATMENT.

954 children were noted at periodic or specials inspections as requiring treatment and 73.9 per cent. received treatment. The corresponding percentage in 1952 was 74.2.

1 case of Ringworm (Scalp) was treated during the year.

There were 8 cases of Scabies or Itch, all treated at the Central Minor Ailments Clinic, King Street.

There were 251 cases of ear diseases or defects and 239 of these were treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics.

There were 271 cases of eye diseases or defects and 259 were treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics.

During the year 868 children were submitted to refraction, 829 at the Ophthalmic Clinic, King Street, and 39 otherwise. Spectacles were prescribed in respect of 419 children, and at the end of the year 378 (90.1 per cent.) had obtained spectacles.

377 children suffering from diseases or defects of the Ear, Nose and Throat were referred for treatment. During 1953, 72 children received operative treatment and 287 received other forms of treatment.

Tuberculosis.

During 1953, 3 cases of tuberculosis (pulmonary) amongst school children were notified. At the end of the year 21 children, 7 pulmonary and 14 non-pulmonary, remained on the notification register.

Crippling (other than Tuberculosis).

During 1953, 26 school children were treated at the Pinderfields Hospital.

MINOR AILMENTS CLINICS.

(Central Clinic, King Street; Branch Clinics at Manygates Park Snapethorpe School, and Heath View School).

The following Table gives the number of Minor Ailments treated at the above Clinics during 1953.

Disease	Number of Defects Treated
Ringworm (Scalp)	1
Eye Disease (External and other)	257
Ear, Nose and Throat Defects.. .. .	239
Impetigo and other Skin Diseases	136
Scabies	8
Miscellaneous	2199
Total	2840

1,565 cases were treated at the Central Clinic, King Street, with 6,595 attendances; 36 were treated at Manygates Park Clinic with 89 attendances; 840 were treated at Snapethorpe Clinic with 2,107 attendances and 400 were treated at Heath View Clinic with 1,764 attendances.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

During 1953, 829 cases were examined at the above-named Clinic by Dr. S. K. Sledge, the Consultant Ophthalmologist, of which 718 were new cases and 111 were re-examinations.

The number of prescriptions issued was 380.

Analysis of Eye Refractions and Defects (1,464 eyes).

1. Emmetropia	5 eyes
2. Hypermetropia	358 eyes
3. Myopia	53 eyes
4. Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism	21 eyes
5. Compound Hypermetropic Astigmatism	798 eyes
6. Simple Myopic Astigmatism	16 eyes
7. Compound Myopic Astigmatism	144 eyes
8. Mixed Astigmatism	69 eyes
9. Defects other than Refractive Error	—
	<hr/> 1464 eyes

Strabismus (Classified as a separate defect) .. 144 eyes
(37 cases of Strabismus were of the alternating type).

The following cases of defective vision were specially noted because of the presence of conditions complicating the refractive error:—

1. Marked defect of vision	..	..	..	1
2. Marked Amblyopia	..	..	..	96
3. External disease or defect	..	..	..	10
4. Opacities of the cornea, lens and vitreous	..			6
5. Defects and diseases of the Retina and Choroid				8
6. Congenital Nystagmus..	..	..	..	8

33 children were referred during the year to the Orthoptic Clinic, Clayton Hospital.

ORTHOPAEDIC AND ULTRA VIOLET RAY CLINICS.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

This Clinic is held at the Principal Child Welfare Centre, Margaret Street, children needing to see the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon being referred by the Medical Officers by appointment.

During 1953, there were 3,227 attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinic. The Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Miss M. A. Pearson, held 9 sessions during the year, seeing 6 new cases and 84 old cases with a total attendance of 90.

212 cases were examined by the Medical Officers.

The cases seen by Miss Pearson and the Medical Officers fell into the following categories:—

Classification of Defects	Cases seen in the current year	
	Cases seen for the first time in 1953.	First seen in previous years.
Congenital neuromuscular defects (<i>e.g.</i> hemiplegia and spastics)	7	6
Other congenital defects (including talipes)	1	5
Birth Paralysis (all Erb's type)	—	1
Non-tubercular deformities of spine (including torticollis)	6	7
Deformities of legs (knock knee, etc.) ..	7	9
Flat foot and valgus ankle	59	19
Other deformities of feet and toes.. ..	10	9
Deformities due to paralytic poliomyelitis	—	4
Miscellaneous defects	38	20
Totals	128	80

Artificial Sunlight Clinic.

This Clinic is also held at the Principal Child Welfare Centre, Margaret Street. Cases are referred from all Clinics and by private practitioners. The number of examinations carried out during 1953 by medical officers was 350 and the total attendances amounted to 3,280.

Classification of Defects	Cases seen in the current year	
	Cases seen for the first time in 1953.	First seen in previous years.
Debility after Infectious Disease ..	14	2
Debility with nervous symptoms	3	2
Debility with Catarrhal Symptoms ..	6	9
Debility with Cervical Adenitis	5	8
General Debility	13	4
Rickets	2	2
Skin Disease	2	—
Bronchitis and Asthma	16	13
Rheumatism	1	—
Miscellaneous conditions	40	7
Totals	102	47

DENTAL CLINIC AND DENTAL INSPECTION.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER.

By G. S. Cubitt, L.D.S., R.C.S.

The disadvantages of understaffing became increasingly apparent during the year, and the interval between inspections is now 18 months. The object of asking parental consent to treatment throughout school life is to enable the treatment to be planned so that the pupil receives the maximum benefit and leaves school dentally fit. Such planning embraces not only the retention of valuable teeth by restorations, but also what might be called preventive orthodontics; that is, timely extraction of teeth to prevent an irregularity developing, a matter which requires considerable experience of the problems of the mixed dentition. This purpose is thwarted if the pupil receives only occasional and sporadic treatment, or if the treatment is regular but at intervals of more than one year.

The wasteful nature of understaffing is brought home to one when a tooth which bites on a filled tooth has to be extracted. In such a case the filled tooth loses its function, and the time and cost of saving it are thrown away.

The number of children attending without appointment for the relief of pain, 418, was the highest so far recorded. It was often necessary to extend sessions in order to give them attention.

A single-handed dental officer of necessity ploughs a lonely furrow, and the visit in July of Dr. Wynne of the Ministry of Education provided a welcome opportunity of discussing the present difficulties of school dentistry in general, as well as those of the School Dental Service in Wakefield.

I have referred before to the large amount of evidence that the incidence of dental decay in children can be reduced by the fluoridation of water supplies, but the attitude of the Ministries is one of extreme caution, and it will probably be a long time before fluoridation can make any contribution towards easing our difficulties.

On the whole appointments are well kept, and most parents inform me if illness or other cause prevents attendance. It would be helpful if Head Teachers, who are supplied with a list of appointments, would give a reminder to the pupils, and also inform me if a pupil is unable or does not intend to keep an appointment. Most of the avoidable absenteeism occurs among the older pupils in Secondary Schools.

During the year general dental practitioners have shown a greater willingness to treat children, and there seems no reason why the large number of casals treated at the School Dental Clinic should be further increased by those whose parents have previously opted for treatment under the National Health Service.

The Dental Clinic remains the only place where pre-school children are likely to get attention, a fact which spotlights the unreality of the existing artificial division between the different branches of the priority dental services.

The Consultant Orthodontist, Mr. B. R. Townend, undertook a further 20 cases during the year. His services, and those of Miss R. Sclare, are much appreciated by an increasing number of Wakefield parents and children.

(1)	Number of pupils inspected:				
(a)	Periodic age groups	..	..	..	4329
(b)	Specials	..	..	..	418
	Total	..	..	..	4747
(2)	Number found to require treatment	..	..		3069
(3)	Number referred for treatment	..	..		2957
(4)	Number actually treated	..	..		2375
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	..			3250

(6)	Half-days devoted to					
	(a)	Inspection	..	..	..	36
	(b)	Treatment	..	..	..	467
						<hr/> 503
(7)	Fillings:	Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	1656
		Temporary Teeth		..	..	146
		Total	..	..	..	<hr/>1802
(8)	Number of teeth filled:		Permanent Teeth	..		1553
			Temporary Teeth			148
		Total	..	..	..	<hr/>1701
(9)	Extractions:	Permanent Teeth	..	..		368
		Temporary Teeth	..	..		2632
		Total	..	..	..	<hr/>3000
(10)	Adminstrations of general anaesthetics for extractions					195
(11)	Other operations:	Permanent Teeth	..			138
		Temporary Teeth		..		445
		Total	..	..	..	<hr/>543

FLUORINE AND DENTAL DECAY.

By J. W. Price, M.B., Ch.B.

The children of Wakefield in 1953 suffered from a usual high incidence of dental decay. So also did the children of Grand Rapids, U.S.A., in 1945. But by 1951 the incidence in Grand Rapids had decreased considerably. This reduction was deliberately planned. Fluoridation of the domestic water supply was responsible (fluoridation means the addition of a compound of fluorine).

Fluorine is a natural constituent of all teeth. It gives them a measure of resistance to decay, depending on the amount ingested during the formation of the teeth. If too little is available the teeth formed are soft, that is, they decay easily; if too much is available, the teeth will be hard and have very high resistance to decay,

but severe mottling may be present (mild mottling means tiny white, almost invisible, flecks on the teeth; severe mottling shows as opaque white, sometimes brown, patches); but when a moderate amount of fluorine is available, the teeth formed are hard with only occasional mild mottling.

Fluorine occurs naturally in foodstuffs and in probably the majority of domestic water supplies in Great Britain. In most drinking waters only a trace is present, but in some up to 4 or 5 p.p.m. (parts per million) are present.

The level of fluorine in the water supply is most important.

For example, dental examination of children in North Shields (0.07 p.p.m.) showed an incidence of decay almost twice that of the children in South Shields (0.8 p.p.m.).

Thus a method was devised of adding a soluble fluorine compound to those domestic waters with negligible fluorine content. In the U.S.A. the desired level is considered to be 1 p.p.m. of fluorine.

Now Wakefield's supply is practically fluorine-free. Fluoridation to 1 p.p.m. would reduce considerably the incidence of dental decay. In discussing whether or not to introduce it here, the following points would arise:—

1. Is it a difficult procedure?
2. Is it costly?
3. Would consumption over a long period of water fluoridated to 1 p.p.m. give rise to harmful effects?

Several years of experience of actual operation in the U.S.A. show that it is a relatively simple procedure, able to be effectively controlled. The cost is reasonable. As regards harmful effects, it is known that workers exposed to dust containing high concentration of fluoride may show radiological changes in bones, although disability is uncommon. But millions of people drink water with a natural fluorine content of 1 p.p.m. or more, without any evidence of harm.

To sum up, fluoridation is a method of preventing a considerable amount of dental decay. It is worthy of immediate consideration by all those interested in the prevention of disease.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC.

This Clinic continued to be held during 1953, at the Central School Clinic, King Street. Mr. Hutton, Consultant for diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat, held 6 sessions during the year and examined 83 children (69 new cases and 14 re-examinations). Of these 56 were recommended for hospital treatment. 51 received hospital treatment during 1953, including 12 children who had been examined prior to 1953.

SPEECH THERAPY.

Unfortunately, this Clinic had to be temporarily closed in September, 1952, because of the inability, for personal reasons, of the Speech Therapist, Mrs. Marjorie M. Blake, to carry on with her work. It was hoped to re-commence the Clinic in 1953 but Mrs. Blake resigned in March. No further appointment was made during 1953 but the Wakefield Education Authority arranged for eleven children to receive treatment at the Ossett Speech Therapy Clinic.

It is hoped to re-commence this Clinic in 1954.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

The Director of Education has kindly supplied me with the following Report by the Organisers of Physical Training:—

Facilities for Physical Education in the Primary Schools continue to improve, and of the fifteen Junior Departments only two have no indoor accommodation, and in the very near future one of these will have the use of a new hall. This means that there is no seasonal interruption in the physical activity lessons, and steady progress can be maintained throughout the year.

More schools have been equipped with climbing apparatus, and its appeal to the children never seems to diminish. Much valuable benefit has been derived from it. It is unfortunate, however, that the new schools which have been built in the past year or two have not had some apparatus incorporated into the structure of the school hall, as it is used for physical training more than anything else.

Of the seven Secondary Departments, only two have gymnasias, and although valuable work is done in the school halls, it must of necessity be a severe handicap through lack of fixed apparatus, and also shortage of fully qualified specialist teachers who are not keen to apply for posts at schools without gymnasias. However, more time is spent on the games field, and a high standard of proficiency is attained. Each year a good number of ex-school-boy stars join Youth and Adult Organisations.

Out of school activities include swimming, netball, rugby football and athletics. More swimming clubs have been formed this year, and the attendance is steady. Some Clubs provide the children with their only swimming instruction, as it is impossible for them all to attend during school hours.

Where the Club is held in addition to the school lesson, more time can be given to individual children, for example the nervous beginner or the promising child.

The school netball and rugby league matches stimulate keen but friendly competition, besides giving the children the social responsibility of acting as hosts to the visiting team.

PROVISION OF MILK AND MEALS.

The Director of Education has kindly supplied me with the following Report by the School Meals Organiser:—

The work of the School Meals Service has continued most satisfactorily during the year. Various reorganisations have taken place since March, when it was announced by the Ministry of Education that the price of the meal would be increased from 7d. to 9d. The closure of nursery schools and classes, where all the children attending took the mid-day meal, has, like the price increase, been a factor in the decrease of approximately 700 per day in the number of meals served. The Committee also reconsidered the scale for the provision of Free Meals in the light of the higher cost of living, and the proposals were approved by the Ministry. 211 children receive free dinners in Schools. Investigations into the fall in meal numbers was made by Head Teachers, and it was ascertained that fewer mothers now go out to work, and that in the larger family, the meal at home would not perhaps cost as much as a school dinner. The more abundant supply of foodstuffs, particularly meat, was another reason given.

The School Meals programme for minor projects approved by the Ministry of Education consisted of the construction of sculleries at St. Austin's Infants' School and Eastmoor C. Junior School. These were started in August, and authority has been obtained for the construction of a scullery at Lupset R.C. School in the building programme for 1954/55.

The total number of meals served throughout the year was 869,390, being a daily average of 4,372. One third pint bottles of free milk delivered to schools showed an average of 7,218 daily.

PROVISION OF CLOTHING.

The Authority, under the provisions of the Education (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1948 (Section 5) have provided clothing to 127 children during the year. The figure shows a slight increase on the previous year when 116 pupils were clothed under the Scheme.

OPEN-AIR TREATMENT. HORNSEA SEASIDE SCHOOL.

This School was open from the 17th April, 1953, until the 23rd October, 1953, when the last batch of pupils returned home. During the period 689 children (313 boys and 376 girls) were in residence, the boys for a period of three weeks each and the girls for a period of two weeks each. The average number of children in each batch was 63.

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

During 1953, 72 per cent. of the parents, generally the mother, attended at periodic medical inspections.

CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

The teachers give, as they always have done, the greatest possible help and co-operation in the work of the School Health Service. It is impossible to speak too highly of their assistance without which the work would lose much of its efficiency.

CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

The two Societies that afford most help in connection with the School Health Service are the Wakefield Social Service Council and the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The former Society, which includes an active Guild of Help, undertakes much of the care work of the Corporation, and is of great assistance in supplying food and clothing in necessitous cases of a temporary character. Cases of apparently wilful neglect are referred to the latter Society for investigation and any necessary action, and Inspector White has proved a most helpful and zealous coadjutor. The Mayor's Boot Fund has also done a most useful work during 1953 and supplied 44 pairs of boots or shoes to necessitous children.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC.

The Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr. D. Fenton-Russell has kindly supplied me with the following report on the work of the Child Guidance Clinic during 1953.

The Child Guidance Clinic has again had a very satisfactory year. Analysis of the figures shows little change from previous years and this can be mainly accounted for by the fact that the majority of cases referred are severe and long standing and failed to respond to the usual therapeutic efforts which can be made by other medical and welfare departments.

These children, of course, represent those who would in later life, suffer from some severe psychological illness and thus the Child Guidance Clinic is playing a great part in preventing mental illness.

Short statistical analysis of the children seen at Child Guidance Clinical Sessions:

Total number of cases seen by the Child Guidance Service	128
Total number of cases passed on to the Child Guidance Clinic	45
Number of Psychiatric Sessions held	48
Number of Interviews	168

Children Seen: 45.

Disposal:

Taken on for Intensive Treatment	13
Taken on for Periodic treatment	8
Advice and Diagnosis	8
Put on Waiting List for treatment	6
Put on Waiting List for weekly play therapy by Educational Psychologist under Psychiatric direction:	10
Total	45

Discharges:

Court Reports Only	0
Diagnosis and Advice	0
Transferred to other Authority	3
Withdrawn before Examination	0
No Co-operation	0
Improved	5
Total	8

TREATMENT CASES.

I. Sex Distribution.

14 boys
7 girls
Total 21

II. Distribution of Intelligence.

1. **Range.** Of the children taken on for treatment the lowest I.Q. was 77 and the highest was 132.
2. **Distribution.**

Below average	6
Average ..	12
Above average	3

III. Types classified according to predominant psychological features.

1. Delinquency — lying, stealing, truanting, sex misdemeanours	2
2. Behaviour disorders,— out of control, violent tempers, defiance, etc., aggressiveness, negativistic behaviour	3
3. Backwardness and emotional immaturity	—
4. Nervous disorders — anxieties, hysterical obsessional symptoms, tics, stammer	12
5. Habit disorders — enuresis and soiling as main symptoms	4
Total	21

IV. Type classified according to Aetiology.

1. Physical causes.	
(a) direct—cerebral dysrhythmia, post-encephalitic or post-meningitic state, spasticity, etc... ..	—
(b) indirect—gross physical defect, long hospitalisation	—
2. General developmental retardation and low intelligence—including feeble-mindedness, with or without superimposed psychotic traits	2
3. Constitutional instability or abnormal temperamental disposition, with or without neurotic conflicts	11
4. Shock experiences	3
5. Unfavourable environmental conditions as main factor	
(a) Home	4
(b) School	1
Total	21

Current Cases.

Number of Children still under treatment at end of year	13
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Waiting List.

Number on Waiting List at end of year	12
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HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

(a) **Blind Children.**

At the end of the year there were 2 children (boys) in Residential Special Schools.

(b) **Partially Sighted Children.**

There were 2 children (boys) in a Residential Special School.

(c) **Deaf Children.**

There were 6 children (5 boys and 1 girl) in Residential Special Schools.

(d) **Partially Deaf Children.**

3 children (1 boy and 2 girls) were in Residential Special Schools.

(e) **Physically Handicapped.**

3 children (2 boys and 1 girl) were in Residential Special Schools.

(f) **Educationally Subnormal Pupils.**

At the end of the year there were 37 children (25 boys and 12 girls) on the Register. 32 were in primary or secondary schools and 4 children (3 boys and 1 girl) were in Residential Special Schools.

(g) **Maladjusted.**

1 child (a girl) was in a Residential Special School.

THORNES HOUSE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Periodic and Special Inspections were carried out at the above school during 1953.

193 pupils were examined, 122 at Periodic Inspections and 71 at inspections of Specials.

11 pupils were referred for treatment and 89 required to be kept under observation.

JUNIOR ART AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Periodic Inspections were carried out at the above schools during 1953.

218 pupils were examined, 21 being referred for treatment and 104 for observation.

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

Year ended 31st December, 1953.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups

Entrants	662
Second Age Group	504
Third Age Group	798
Total	1964

Number of other Periodic Inspections	340
Grand Total	2304

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	3912
Number of Re-inspections	1421
Total	5333

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group	For defective vision (excluding squint).	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA.	Total individual pupils.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Entrants	3	72	71
Second Age Group	30	48	70
Third Age Group	46	24	70
Total (prescribed groups)	79	144	211
Other Periodic Inspections	14	12	23
Grand Total	93	156	234

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

Defect Code No.	DEFECT OR DISEASE	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not requiring treatment
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4.	Skin	13	12	212	16
5.	Eyes— <i>a.</i> Vision	93	244	79	487
	<i>b.</i> Squint	2	18	7	25
	<i>c.</i> Other	6	6	63	5
6.	Ears— <i>a.</i> Hearing	2	8	12	6
	<i>b.</i> Otitis Media ..	10	12	39	12
	<i>c.</i> Other	—	—	19	4
7.	Nose or Throat	27	141	42	264
8.	Speech	2	21	7	32
9.	Cervical Glands	4	53	8	62
10.	Heart and Circulation ..	6	18	5	32
11.	Lungs	12	24	7	35
12.	Developmental—				
	<i>a.</i> Hernia	—	2	—	—
	<i>b.</i> Other	—	2	—	5
13.	Orthopaedic—				
	<i>a.</i> Posture	5	37	2	21
	<i>b.</i> Flat foot	16	44	13	23
	<i>c.</i> Other	10	53	3	78
14.	Nervous system—				
	<i>a.</i> Epilepsy	—	—	—	2
	<i>b.</i> Other	—	3	—	2
15.	Psychological—				
	<i>a.</i> Development ..	1	4	—	61
	<i>b.</i> Stability	—	6	—	39
16.	Other	24	46	207	97

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Insp'cted	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	% of cl. 2	No.	% of cl. 2	No.	% of cl. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	662	90	13.6	540	81.6	32	4.8
Second Age Group	504	174	34.5	314	62.3	16	3.2
Third Age Group	798	142	17.8	638	79.9	18	2.3
Other Periodic Inspections	340	103	30.3	232	68.2	5	1.5
Total	2304	509	22.1	1724	74.8	71	3.1

TABLE III.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

(i)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons ..	24,025
(ii)	Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested	563
(iii)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	178
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	82

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanness)

						Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
						by the Auth- ority	other- wise
Ringworm—	(i)	Scalp	..	..	..	—	1
	(ii)	Body	..	..	..	—	—
Scabies		..	..	..	..	8	—
Impetigo	..	..	..	..	..	136	11
Other skin diseases		..	..	..	..	242	49
Total						386	61

GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION
AND SQUINT.

						Number of cases dealt with	
						by the Auth- ority	other- wise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	..	..	..	..	..	257	8
Errors of refraction (including squint)					..	829	39
Total						1086	47
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were							
(a) Prescribed	..	..	..	..	..	380	39
(b) Obtained	..	..	..	..	..	345	33

GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	other-wise
Received operative treatment		
(a) for diseases of the ear	14	3
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ..	44	18
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	3	—
Received other forms of treatment	239	48
Total ..	300	69

GROUP 4.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals	26	
	by the Authority	other-wise
(b) Number treated otherwise, <i>e.g.</i> , in clinics or out-patient departments	99	11

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

	Number of cases treated	
	in the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	else-where
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	45	Nil

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	other-wise
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	11	—

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	other-wise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	2199	101
(b) Other than (a) above (specify)		
1. Debility	39	8
2. Bronchitis	23	14
3. Rickets	4	—
4. Rheumatism	2	1
Total ..	2267	124

TABLE V.**DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY****Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools**

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:—	
(a) Periodic age groups	4329
(b) Specials	418
Total (1)	4747

(2)	Number found to require treatment	..	..	3069
(3)	Number referred for treatment	..	..	2957
(4)	Number actually treated	2375
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	..		3250
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(6)	Half-days devoted to: Inspection	36
	Treatment	467
	Total (6)			503
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(7)	Fillings: Permanent Teeth	1656
	Temporary Teeth	146
	Total (7)			1802
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(8)	Number of teeth filled: Permanent Teeth	..		153
	Temporary Teeth	..		148
	Total (8)			1701
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(9)	Extractions: Permanent Teeth	368
	Temporary Teeth	2632
	Total (9)			3000
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(10)	Administration of general anaesthetics for ex- traction	195
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(11)	Other operations: Permanent Teeth	138
	Temporary Teeth	445
	Total (11)			583
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